

23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time Of The Year

(Wisdom 9.13-18, Philemon 9-10,12-17, Luke 14.25-33)

Theme: Do Not See Your Cross As A Burden, But See It As A Phase That Will Come To Pass.

Beloved in Christ Jesus: We have gathered here again in this house of God to hear the word of God and receive His blessings. Today, our Lord Jesus Christ has a special message for us again; Jesus is reminding us that "whoever does not carry their cross and follow me, cannot be my disciple." (Lk. 14:25-30)

Here Jesus is trying to tell us that, there is no one in this world without a cross to carry. Moreover, our crosses in life are not curses or punishments from God, but these crosses are hurdles we have to overcome as we journey in our lives in this world.

Our Lord Jesus had His own cross during His earthly ministry. He experienced hunger, suffering, rejection, abuse, accused falsely, paid back with hatred for love, and suffered shamefully on the cross and was killed.

Our Blessed Mother had her own cross; she was misunderstood and shared in the cross of her son. The Disciples of Christ had their own crosses. Many apart from the cross of the gospel message had their various family crosses. Some even had series of ill health as their crosses. We know our crosses can come in various forms, but one thing is certain, no one or no family, likewise no country is without a cross. And God's assurance, that, he will never allow any person, a cross beyond that person's strength. And we always bear in mind that God is with us, he will never abandon us.

Even if, your cross comes in the form of sickness in your life or family, marriage problems, lack of peace in the family, financial problems, lack of faith in the family, abusive husbands and, abusive wives, abusive parents, troublesome child or children in the family, sudden death in the family, etc.

Do not think you can leave your cross behind or have another person carry your cross for you. And never think that you can succeed without the help of God. Always invite our Lord Jesus Christ to help you carry your cross.

Let us not see our crosses as burdens in our lives or families, rather, let us see them as phases or trials that will come to pass by the grace of God. Once again, you are not alone in carrying your cross, Jesus is with you. And as children of the same God we are all with you!